FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 JUNE 1984

Israeli-Syrian POW Exchange

Israel received 3 IDF soldiers and 3 civilians from Syria in return for 291 Syrian POW's captured in Lebanon and 20 other prisoners, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio following the exchange of prisoners at Al-Qunaytirah border crossing point. The two sides also exchanged the corpses of soldiers killed in the 1982 war, he noted, and they have both promised to make every effort to locate soldiers listed as missing in action. Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas greeted the released Syrian soldiers at Al-Qunaytirah, telling them in a speech reported by Damascus television that Syria is proud of its returning "heroes."

Commenting on Syria's motives in view of its earlier declaration that it would release the Israelis only as part of a wider agreement on IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, IDF Radio linked the exchange with reports that President Hafiz al-Asad is very close to resigning in favor of his brother, Rif'at al-Asad. If the rumors are true, the radio observed, the POW exchange may be Al-Asad's "festive farewell" to his people.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir welcomed the return of the Israeli prisoners in a statement reported by IDF Radio. He said Israel is continuing efforts to secure the release of all other Israeli POW's, adding that he hopes the day is near when all of them will return home. In a related statement broadcast by the radio, Defense Minister Moshe Arens noted that four Israelis are still held by the "terrorists" while the fate of three other IDF soldiers missing in Lebanon is still unknown.

Lebanon

Action Near Tripoli — An Israeli warship destroyed a "terrorist" boat after five Israeli sailors were wounded by gunfire when the warship encountered the vessel near the island bombed by Israeli planes on 27 June, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement on IDF Radio. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio said 20 people were killed and 40 others were wounded in the Israeli raid, and Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon reported that the casualties included fishermen and boy scouts. Baghdad Voice of PLO said that both Palestinian and Lebanese civilians were killed in the attacks, but the Palestinian radio neither confirmed nor denied Israel's claim that the PLO was using the island as a base.

Liaison Office — Israel has "clearly hinted" to the Lebanese Government that it may block electricity and fuel supplies to Beirut if the Lebanese Government expels the Israeli mission from Ad-Dubayyah, the Israeli paper *HATZOFE* reported.

Gulf Conflict

Tanker Attacks — Eight crew members of the Swiss-owned tanker *Tiburon* were killed and three were wounded in the 27 June Iraqi missile attack on the vessel off Khark Island, according to Tehran radio. Iranian fire-fighting vessels continued their efforts to extinguish the fire aboard the ship. Meanwhile, OPEC sources cited by INA reported that Iran has been unable to repair a Khark Island loading jetty that was damaged during the 24 June Iraqi missile attack on the Greek tanker *Alexander the Great*.

UN Delegation — Iran has agreed to allow the UN cease-fire monitoring delegation to visit Khorramshahr and Abadan and has approved the stationing of a three-member team in Tehran to monitor the cease-fire, according a UN spokesman cited by KUNA. Meanwhile, the UN delegation met and conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Tehran radio reported.

Iran

The Soviet delegation led by Deputy Power and Electricity Minister Aleksey Makukhin departed after signing a memorandum on border exchanges and expansion of power stations, Tehran radio reported. Makukhin described his visit as "successful," and a delegation member said that final decisions are in the hands of senior Iranian and Soviet officials. The acting minister of commerce stressed that Iran would "take into consideration" positions adopted regarding Iraq.

Libya-Tunisia

Libya released the three Tunisian border guards who were detained on 8 May when they "strayed" across the Libyan-Tunisian border, JANA announced. The guards were released as a "fraternal gesture." In another "fraternal initiative," Libya released a Tunisian dredger and its 13 crew members on 25 June, JANA announced in an earlier report.

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Former Diplomat Describes Experiences

PM261545 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 24 Jun 84 pp 10-11

[Former diplomat 'Abdol Majid Mangal article with introduction by Gordon Brook-Shepherd: "The Rape of My Country"]

[Text] [Gordon Brook-Shepherd introduction] 'Abdol Majid Mangal, a former career diplomat with the Afghan Foreign Service, escaped to the West last month. With him he brought a wealth of inside knowledge of the manoeuverings that led to the Soviet occupation of his country. He was in Moscow in 1978 for the signing of the "treaty of friendship" between Russia and Afghanistan — a treaty that paved the way for the Russian invasion of Christmas, 1979. Below, for the first time, he tells the behind-the-scenes story of that treaty and the murderous events that followed it.

To find Mr Mangal I flew to Peshawar, in Pakistan. But once here, near the foot of the Khyber Pass in what is still called the North West Frontier Province, shadows of the Great Game (now played almost exclusively between the United State and Russia) fell across the scene. There were also several touches of James Bond.

The Pakistan authorities themselves were wisely keeping out of anything which might lead to charges of fomenting anti-Soviet political activities on their soil. My final contacts were therefore to be made on the spot with the large Afghan refugee network.

There were some telephone numbers to call, and I got my instructions from one of these. I was to take a taxi to a point where, on the outskirts of the town, a small lane joined the main road. If I left the car here and walked up the lane, I would be met. Even if I found nobody in the lane, there would be no mistaking the house.

The margin for error was indeed small. On the left-hand side, rising between a collection of tatty bazaar shops and stalls, was a large building whose courtyard entrance was sealed with the sort of solid iron double door you associate more with keeping out nuclear blasts than just unwelcome callers. There, as promised, seated in the front room and waiting to be introduced, was Mr Mangal. This was not, I should add, where he stayed. He lived in an even safer house under the patronage of the Americans, who were just as anxious to keep him alive and well as the Russians — also very active in this locality — were desirous of the contrary.

Mr Mangal, with whom I was to have two long meetings, stretching over several hours, turned out to be an instantly likeable open-faced man in his early forties. He still looked and talked very much like the correct career diplomat. He was well-groomed and immaculately turned out in a light cream suit and spotted tie which he made no attempt even to loosen, despite the heat which hovered around 110 degrees.

In Rawalpindi on the way home, I was asked whether I was sure that Mr Mangal was quite "genuine" (the implication being that he just might a KGB plant). I had found only one point of his story in need of explanation — why he, as a stubborn non-Communist, was posted, of all places, to Moscow, and temporarily as charge d'affaires. I pressed him on this and I fully accept the explanation he gave, which, as he must have known, could, in its general terms, be verified. For the rest, I can only rely on an instinct based on many years of separating the genuine from the bogus in professed anti-Communist refugees. If Abdul Mangal is a sham, then he is, the best actor since Irving.

He is quite simply a decent man and a fierce patriot whose love of honour and of his country have both been outraged. When I mentioned money, he replied that though, as a refugee, he could use some, he would prefer his fee to be paid into something which would help the Afghan cause. This is what he wants now to serve in exile. He has begun well by giving this first inside account, indeed, of how the Soviet Union concludes and manipulates its notorious Friendship Treaties. It makes a chilling tale for those Third World countries who have already signed such pacts, and a cautionary tale for any now being tempted to follow suit.

[Mangal] On December 4, 1978, I was roaming the corridors of the Kremlin — the only career diplomat and non-party man in the top-level Afghan Communist delegation which had been summoned to Moscow two days before for a fateful meeting on the Afghan-Soviet treaty with the Soviet leaders. I had been told in Kabul only a few hours before our departure that I was being included, presumably to give purely professional advice. However, the draft for a final joint communique which I duly prepared had been completely ignored by everyone and I had spent two days in Moscow more or less kicking my heels.

That afternoon in the Kremlin I realised why my services would not be required. A Soviet official stopped me, handed me a document, and walked on. It was the text of a treaty of "Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Co-operation" between the Soviet Union and the recently proclaimed "Democratic Republic of Afghanistan," and it was due to be signed the very next day — despite the fact that I, as the only senior professional adviser in our delegation, had only just had a copy thrust in my hands!

I ran quickly down the text and stopped in horror at Article Four. This specified that, whenever the security of the contracting parties was endangered, they would take "appropriate measures." As it was unlikely that the Soviet Union would ever be calling on Afghanistan to help save it from a NATO invasion, this could only mean a provision for Russian action against my own country. As it stood, the wording was ominously open to abuse. But we still had a few hours to spare. Perhaps there was just time to negotiate a change.

I rushed to the special suite in the Kremlin — beautifully furnished and carpeted in the old Russian style — where our delegation was quartered. There I found our chief, President Nur Mohammad Taraki. He, it will be remembered, was the out-and-out Communist leader who had replaced the more pragmatic President Daud in a Soviet-inspired and Soviet-led coup d'etat seven months before.

There had been a horrible bloodbath in Kabul after the insurrection, with Daud, his family and his closest advisers being executed one by one on the former royal palace grounds, which

were now the presidential offices, and their bodies then dragged through the streets as a public warning. Now Taraki, Moscow's nominee of May, 1978, was sitting comfortably in his Kremlin suite with his deputy, Mr Hafizullah Amin. Amin was in fact destined only nine months later to take over power in Kabul in yet another coup which, this time, was to lead to Taraki's murder. For the moment, however, they were comrades sitting amicably side by side in their luxurious guest rooms.

I stood before them brandishing my copy of the treaty and warned them of the dangers of Article Four. At least, I pleaded, we should try to get some clarification worked in as to what the situations were which would "threaten security" and what sort of counter-measures were envisaged. The least we could do, I argued, was to get a clause inserted that any such measures would not infringe the independence, sovereignty or territorial integrity of either party — by which, of course, I meant us.

Taraki and Amin took a copy out of my hands, glanced at it briefly and then Taraki simply replied: "This has already been agreed with the Soviet comrades." He spoke in a flat voice, without a trace of emotion or anxiety. I saw that it was hopeless to persist. I, as a non-party man, was not involved in politics, was an outsider. They, as Communists, accepted the situation.

The Russians had put them in power and they already felt that with anti-Communist disaffection steadily rising in Afghanistan they might well need Soviet armed help to keep them in power. This, I am sure, was the bait for the treaty and they had accepted, without demur, the text put in front of them.

The next day, December 5, I had to witness the utterly phony treaty ceremony in one of the Kremlin halls. Before photographers, the Soviet leader, Mr Brezhnev, the foreign minister, Mr Gromyko, and their aides, sat down with our own delegation and solemnly exchanged signatures and handshakes, as though the document they were signing really had represented the end product of genuine bilateral talks. It was a nauseating experience for someone like myself who had joined the Afghan diplomatic service before the Communist era, had served a long spell at the United Nations and who still cherished some ideals as to how international relations should be conducted.

From Moscow I returned to my desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul, where at that time I was acting director of the UN and International Conference Department. I had a nasty feeling, for, looking back, I could well see that what I had just witnessed in the Kremlin was just another step — albeit a big one — in a long and systematic Soviet programme. The Russians had first seized their chance with us back in the mid-60's after the new Constitution had allowed political parties to operate under the banner of democracy. They started pouring in millions of rubles to launch a regular Afghan Communist Party - whose two factions the so-called "Khalq" and "Parcham" (or "Masses" and "Flag"), were in those days fairly united.

The build-up continued under the long years of President Daud's government. Daud, a relatively moderate nationalist, was supposed to be on cordial terms with Brezhnev, but I can testify to the contrary, at least as regards the final phase of his rule.

In January, 1978, he took me on a trip to Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries, and I soon realised that its whole aim was to get emergency economic aid from the oil-rich Arab states as part of a plan to offset the mounting Soviet pressure on him. Daud was also going direct to Western countries with the same idea, and this had led to a stand-up row with Brezhnev in the Kremlin, where Daud had been shortly before our Arab tour.

What had particularly infuriated the Soviet leader was a project giving a French company the right to explore Afghanistan for oil and gas deposits, including areas close to the Soviet border. Brezhnev had demanded that the deal be cancelled and Daud had refused outright. It was not surprising that, only a few months later, Daud and his family should have been murdered with such ferocity by Soviet hit-men and their Afghan agents. Brezhnev was taking his personal revenge. The French exploration project, needless to say, was dropped.

But, as I have mentioned, Taraki's turn to be deposed and butchered came in September, 1979, less than nine months after the signing of the Friendship Treaty. The Russians certainly knew all about this, but their direct involvement in Taraki's overthrow was nothing like as great as their role had been in placing him in power.

The turmoil in the countryside had become so strong and the rivalries among the Afghan communists in Kabul so bitter that some change at the top seemed inevitable.

The feuding between the Khalq and Parcham factions was partly a matter of personal rivalries. But it was also ideological. The Khalqis, largely a rural movement, might be described as Afghan Titoists. Though staunchly communist, their first allegiance was to their own country. For the Parchams, whose main strength was among the urban upper class, the will of the Soviet Union was supreme. There were violent clashes in Kabul, including gun battles between the two factions, and they involved not just party members at meetings, but officials in the ministries. (This, as a matter of fact, has not stopped. Just over a year ago, the Khalqi deputy minister of defence, Khalilullah, attacked and wounded his Parcham superior, General Abdol Qaderin in his office.)

Even the circumstances of Taraki's own overthrow were typical of the general chaos. Though both Khalqis, he and Amin had become personal rivals and on September 14, 1979, there was a shoot-out in the presidential palace between them and their followers. If anything, the Russians may well have wanted Amin eliminated because they thought him less likely to bring stability to the country. But that wasn't the way things worked out. Amin came out on top and Taraki was wounded. A typical farce followed. Officially, President Taraki then pleaded illness to the Khalq Party Council as an excuse for being relieved of all his duties. Relieved he duly was; but he was also executed. The death was announced on October 9.

The Russians, whose own losses were all the time mounting in battles with the mujaheddin in the countryside, had to accept the position. They merely hoped that President Amin, while being equally subservient to them, would quieten things down a bit. All the time, of course, they were steadily increasing the number of their own military and political "advisers" in Afghanistan.

Amin himself was only to last three months before he went the way of his predecessors. But his brief reign was marked by one highly significant episode which concerned me personally. Again, that ominous treaty was involved. Only a few days after Taraki's overthrow, I was summoned to the office of Dr (Assadullah Amin), a medical doctor by training but now a party man and politician. He was a relative of the new president and held the post of deputy minister of foreign affairs.

He handed me the text of a "joint" Afghan-Soviet letter to the UN in New York asking for the December, 1978, treaty to be registered "in conformity with the provisions of the UN Charter." I, as the desk officer, was told to get on with it, and to lose no time about it. The same sense of urgency came from Soviet Embassy staff in Kabul. They all stressed to me that action had to be taken quickly. Why, I wondered, was there this sudden rush about a document which had been signed the previous winter?

When I consulted my UN rule book, I soon found the answer. Only after its formal registration with the UN Secretariat could any treaty between member-states be officially invoked in support of any action based upon it. There was nothing I could do except carry out orders, and the 1978 Friendship Treaty was duly registered in New York by the end of September, 1979. Mr Brezhnev was calling in his Afghan chips. Clearly, he was preparing to activate Article Four. From that moment on I sensed that invasion was both inevitable and imminent.

Come it did that Christmas, after three months of intensified Soviet air attacks against the rebel strongholds in the countryside and mounting political turmoil in the capital. I was at my desk in the Ministry at the time and heard the first ominous signs on or soon after December 21. We got reports from the provinces of gigantic Soviet tranport planes filling our skies and landing troops and tanks at our airports.

But to begin with, people outside the Communist hierarchy like myself could form no idea about the scale of it all. At that time the resistance movement in the countryside was also not organised to co-ordinate intelligence — whatever headache it was giving the Russians on the ground. Perhaps, we thought, this was just another massive boost of strength to keep Amin in power.

The first I knew that yet another political coup was involved was during the night of December 28/29 when the voice of the exiled "Parcham" Communist leader Babrak Karmal was heard on the radio. That broadcast, announcing his takeover, was allegedly made by Karmal in person from Tashkent, just across the Soviet border. In fact, it was a Czech official who confirmed to me later that, at the time, Karmal himself was still in Prague. The Soviet programme called for him to be moved in person into Afghanistan only when "things were ripe." The Karmal regime was thus launched with lies, as well as with Soviet tanks.

There was no doubt about the direct Soviet involvement this time. Among the Soviet forces flown into Kabul that Christmas was a special commando force which — dressed in Afghan Army uniforms and riding in Afghan military vehicles — stormed the presidential palace and shot down Amin on sight. They wanted no more Afghan muddles like the confused shoot-out three months before.

As the UN expert I subsequently had the very distasteful experience of being sent to New York as part of the Afghan delegation which was supposed to "justify" the Soviet invasion before the UN General Assembly. The thought of defection to the West had been with me ever since the bloodbath of Taraki's arrival to power and the Moscow episode of the Friendship Treaty. But my wife and two children would have to come with me to start a new life and, needless to say, they were not allowed to accompany me to New York.

Despite the fact, therefore, that I knew I would have to return to them, I was planning to get the microphone myself during the Assembly debate — and without going so far as to imperil myself and my family — at least make an intervention which would strike a different note to the servile pro-Soviet line our delegation was putting across. I had to choose a time when our delegation leader, the Communist Foreign Secretary Mohammad Dost, was not at his place, for only from his seat could one demand the right to speak from the rostrum. Unfortunately the Belorussian delegate, a Mr Gurinovich, droned on and on interminably in his set speech supporting the Soviet action and Mr Dost was back in his seat before Comrade Gurinovich had finished.

I think it was all pure coincidence, as I'm sure neither the Russians nor Mr Dost had any idea what was really in my mind at the time. They did, however, note with disapproval my meetings in the lobby with all my old friends (including many Western diplomats and even some "disgraced" Afghan refugees), and I was never allowed out to New York, or anywhere else in the West, again.

I had in fact arrived in New York only in November, 1980, on a special and limited mission for my regular posting at the time was, of all places, Moscow. I must explain how and why this came about. In the summer of 1980, six months into the Karmal regime, I was told I was being sent, partly because of my command of English, to New Delhi, as No 2 in our embassy there. I could not have been more delighted. Here, at last, was the forum I needed. Moreover, as my family would be coming with me, here was a fairly sure escape route to the West whenever we needed it. Then, at the last minute, as we were happily packing for India, I was told that all had been changed and we were to proceed to Moscow instead.

As by now I must have already declined on about a dozen occasions offers to join the Communist Party, this might seem an odd place to send me. But in fact it was what they were doing with each of the small group of us career diplomats in the Ministry who were still non-party members. We were all being posted somewhere behind the Iron Curtain — more, I think, to have us safely under surveillance than with any hope of converting us, though that may have played a role in their calculations.

Whatever the reasons, in August, 1980, I arrived in Moscow, and as our new ambassador (also called Mangal, by the way, but no relative or comrade of mine) had not yet arrived, I was even for a short while charge d'affaires. When he and the other Karmal nominees did turn up, however, I was promptly relegated to the role really intended for me. This consisted in the main of doing all the protocol and formal work which only a trained diplomat

could do while the ambassador and his fellow comrades attended endless party sessions inside the embassy or with the Russians.

I served a full three-year term in Moscow. I was excluded from all secret discussions and only met Soviet leaders like Brezhnev and Gromyko on formal occasions, usually at ceremonies with my ambassador or at three-a-side meetings when our own foreign minister came to Moscow and it was Dost-Mangal-Mangal on our side of the table. I saw enough to prove to me how determined the Russians were to carry out their long-term aim, whatever the cost, of absorbing my country into their orbit — totally and for good. Indeed, in many ways, they were already treating Afghanistan as though it were part of the Soviet Union.

There was, for example, the matter of travel documents. Their ranking officials — all the military and political "advisers," KGB and so on — just went in and out of Afghanistan as though there was no border there. For these people, the formality of a visa didn't exist. For the rank-and-file Soviet citizens traveling to Afghanistan, the Russians did go through the motions of "applying," but in what a farcical and, for us, humiliating way!

A Soviet Foreign Ministry official would simply turn up unannounced at our embassy with a huge pile of passports, and then just stand over our visa officer while he stamped them — sometimes more than 200 in one batch. We were never allowed to question applicants or even be told anything about them. Everything had to be done at once and, of course, the passports were never left with us overnight. Afghanistan might as well have been a Soviet colony already.

The same contemptuous control applied to what was supposed to be "our" foreign policy. More than once, I experienced this myself. The week after Brezhnev's death, for example, a colleague of mine in the West German Embassy said he would like to come and see me. I of course, told my ambassador namesake who immediately said he would have to submit the request to the Russians. It was only 48 hours afterwards that permission was granted.

We heard later that it was not only the Afghan Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry which had been consulted, but also the section of the Soviet Central Committee which dealt with Afghan affairs. I had to report, of course, on my talk with the West German diplomat. All he had wanted was to have a general discussion between two professionals over the significance of Andropov's succession. Was there a fresh wind blowing in the Kremlin and, if so, how might it affect Soviet policy in Afghanistan?

I must admit that, at first, I thought that Andropov might be in a position to change things for the better, but in my eyes it was soon clear that, even before his health broke down, he was a product and a prisoner of the collective leadership. He never lived to master the Politburo, as Brezhnev did.

Certainly, during Andropov's brief reign, there were no serious moves — as opposed to sham manoeuvres — towards a political settlement. The so-called UN-sponsored "proximity talks" between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Geneva continued to be the biggest farce of all as far as we were concerned. The only thing that changed was the name of the Soviet official who was in charge of us.

It had been Gavrilov, who headed the Afghan office at the Foreign Ministry. After his death, Vasiliy Suvranchok, the powerful head of the whole Soviet Middle East Department, took control in person. All the proposals put forward in the name of the Kabul regime were in fact drafted by the Russians, who had their own watchdog always on duty during the Geneva meetings.

There would usually be a carefully-engineered flurry of diplomatic activity on this front during the summer, in the run-up to the annual General Assembly resolution on the Afghanistan problem. The Russians were infuriated that the world body continued to condemn their invasion and tried every trick to influence the Third World states.

The Russians are not just at work to change the present face of Afghanistan. I learned that they are also even busy rewriting its past, with the help of faithful party intellectuals like Professor Akhramovich, the chairman of the Oriental Studies Institute in Moscow. The new history will submerge all our ancient values and traditions and substitute an ideological version tailored to fit in with the Soviet October Revolution.

The last attempt to persuade me to join the Afghan Communist Party (I think it was the 15th approach in all) was made during my time in Moscow. I gave the same answer. I might join our so-called "Fatherland Front," but why should I join the Communist Party itself? After all, I pointed out, even in the Soviet Union itself — which was supposed to be our model — only a minority are actually party members.

But I knew, of course, what they were getting at. The only way to the top in any walk of life now lay through the party. If I wanted to be promoted to ambassador rank anywhere, I would have to join. This I refused to do. On the other hand, to resign outright would be to invite arrest, for myself and for my family. A good friend in our Ministry had warned me about this.

This was the uneasy position when, last August, I was moved back to Kabul with my family at the end of my three-year posting. All my requests to return home, even for a short visit, during that posting had been ignored. Indeed, during the whole of my Moscow spell, I was only allowed abroad twice — once to Bucharest and once to Helsinki — each time to accompany my ambassador. He was jointly accredited to Romania and Finland, and had to visit each at least once to present his credentials. On both occasions, I had to leave my wife and two children behind.

But now we were back in our homeland which had known great suffering, but also, in one way, had been changed for the better since I had last seen it. Now, the "mujahedin" were an organised fighting force in physical control of most of the countryside, including the whole area which bordered on Pakistan — and freedom. For the first time since I had conceived the idea of flight in the bloodbath of Daud's overthrow five years before, escape for the four of us became feasible.

I waited for a while, doing nothing. Like the handful of other non-party "suspects" still left in our Foreign Ministry, I was just

kept in limbo on the "availability list." Then, when it was clear that for me as for them there was now no hope of a posting even to some non-aligned capital, I contacted the resistance and asked them to make the necessary arrangements. This spring, after the snows had melted and the passes were open, they duly spirited us out.

Despite all the fighting and bombings of the Russian's spring offensive, the journey was like moving on a magic carpet. We met up with our "mujahedin" contact on May 14 at a rendezvous only 20 minutes' drive out of Kabul. By May 18 we were safely across the border and in Peshawar. At no point during the entire journey did we have to face a single soldier either from the Red Army or the puppet forces of Karmal. It was the most wonderful proof imaginable that our fight against foreign occupation is a reality and that, moreover, this is something which can never be broken.

This is the one factor which the Russians underestimated in occupying our country; and, if you will pardon me saying so, it was the same mistake the British made in the last century. As I have said, I saw in Moscow how the Kremlin seems to have accepted that it will take time to absorb Afghanistan as just another of its Moslem republics, and it is planning on this long scale.

When I left Moscow last summer, there were already more than 10,000 hand-picked Afghan students in the Soviet Union, not studying at universities, but training to be Army officers, KGB men, watchdogs in industry and the civil service and so on. When these are trained and in place they may well be able to run the puppet regime in Kabul fairly smoothly as an extension of the Kremlin.

But they will never subdue the resistance of the Afghan people. It is the cause of their freedom — and indeed freedom from Soviet oppression anywhere and everywhere — that I want to plead now that I am free, and able to speak out.

AFP: Punjab Governor Pande Reported To Resign

BK290712 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] New Delhi, June 29 (AFP) — Punjab Governor Bhairab Dutt Pande has resigned, the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA reported today. The reason for his decision was not immediately known.

In October last year Prime Minister Indira Gandhi put the state, wracked by a two-year-old Sikh autonomy campaign, under the direct control of Mr Pande, answerable only to her central Cabinet.

Governor's rule was imposed after the state Cabinet was dissolved and the elected Legislative Assembly suspended.

Mr Pande, a former senior officer in Mrs Gandhi's government, was governor of West Bengal before being named to Punjab.

The Indian Constitution allows a maximum of one-year of governor's rule after which the federal government has to recall the assembly and form a new state Cabinet or hold fresh elections.

The agency reported that Mr Pande had sent his resignation to President Zail Singh by personal messenger and that it was to be effective July 3. There was no immediate official confirmation of the resignation report.

Mr Pande had extensive discussions here yesterday with Mrs Gandhi and other federal officials before returning to his post in the troubled northwestern state. Newspapers reported here that Mr Pande's discussions focused chiefly on how the administration should deal with the proposed plan of the Sikh party — the Akali Dal — to hold a crucial meeting today which was to map out the next stage of the party's campaign, particularly after the Army's storming of the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee — the body managing Sikh shrines — also scheduled a separate meeting in Amritsar to discuss the situation, the reports said.

Observers recalled that earlier press reports had hinted that the federal government was unhappy with the Punjab administration's handling of the situation in the state prior to the Army's being called in on June 2. One important factor cited was that militants had taken a large quantity of arms, including some sophisticated foreign-made weapons, into the Golden Temple complex.

More Arrests as Gandhi Confers on Punjab

BK290722 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] In Punjab, the security forces during their continuing mopping-up operation have arrested about 20 more suspected terrorists from different parts of the state since yesterday afternoon. A large quantity of arms and ammunition have also been recovered during the search operation. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh this morning, some more arms and ammunition were recovered yesterday from the Golden Temple complex and Guru Ramdas Sarai [Sikh shrine].

Meanwhile, one culprit suspected to be involved in the murder of a petrol pump manager at (Kot Kaura) in Faridkot District day before yesterday has been apprehended by the police. One pistol and some cartridges have been recovered from his possession. In Amritsar, during the search of a Punjab Roadways bus by the security forces near Raja Sansi a suspect who tried to run away despite warnings was killed when the security forces opened fire.

With the lifting of night curfew in the remaining parts of Hoshiarpur District since last evening, the district has become totally curfew free. The Punjab Congress-I president, Mr R.L. Bhatia, has convened a 2-day meeting of the state Congress-I legislators in Delhi today.

The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, reviewed the Punjab situation at a meeting with the Punjab governor, Mr Pande, in New Delhi yesterday. Mr Pande, who arrived in the capital yesterday, later left for Chandigarh.

Devotees Visit Temples; More Terrorists, Arms Seized

BK281407 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] In Punjab, more than 6,000 devotees visited the historic Muktsar Saheb Gurdwara [Sikh temple] in Faridkot District this morning. The gurdwara was opened to the public yesterday. A large number of devotees took a dip in the sacred saravor [lake] of the gurdwara.

In Amritsar also thousands of devotees had visited the Golden Temple this morning when unrestricted entry was allowed.

Meanwhile, the security forces during their continued mopping-up operations have apprehended 29 more suspected terrorists since last evening and recovered from them some arms and a large quantity of ammunition. Four of them were apprehended from a religious place in Jullundur and 1 self-loading rifle, 2 .303 rifles, some hand grenades, and 500 rounds of ammunition were recovered from them.

Bombay Youths Protest BBC Punjab Coverage

BK281629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] In Bombay, about 2,000 youths led by the Maharashtra Pradesh [state] Youth Congress-I president, Mr Gurudas Kamath, took out a procession to the office of the British deputy high commissioner. A memorandum protesting against the BBC coverage on Punjab was handed over.

Delhi Reports Clash With Police in South Tripura

BK290718 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] At (Lakhichera) in South Tripura District today, a gang of armed extremists ambushed a police patrol party killing all of them. The party consisted of six Central Reserve Police Force [CRPF] personnel, one police constable and one subinspector of police. The extremists took away all the weapons. The inspector general of CRPF, Agartala, Mr Mathur, has gone to the spot. An intensive combing operations is on.

AFP: Eight Killed

OW282323 Hong Kong AFP in English 2304 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] New Delhi, June 28 (AFP) — Armed extremists of Tripura National Volunteers today killed eight security men, injured six others, and looted arms and ammunition from them in an ambush in the south district of Tripura, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

Police in Agartala, capital of the northeastern border state, said the incident occured when security men went to apprehend the extemists in a deep forest. The extremists opened fire, killing six paramilitary central reserve policemen and two Tripura policemen and injuring six others.

They made off with one light machine gun, one .303 rifle, four self-loading rifles, one Sten gun, one revolver, and a large quantity of ammunition from the security men, PTI quoted the police as saying.

The report said that the extremists had earlier raided a market and fired on a row of shops and injured two persons on their way to the international border with Bangladesh.

A 25-member gang was involved in a series of extremist activities in the area in the last 20 days, the report added.

The border security force has been alerted along Tripura's border with Bangladesh to prevent extremists from slipping through, the report added.

Rao Exchanges Views With Sri Lankan Minister

BK281619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Sri Lanka minister of national security, Mr Lalith Athhulathmudali, exchanged views in New Delhi today on the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen that their meeting lasted for more than 90 minutes. The talks were free and friendly.

Mr Athhulathmudali was assisted by the Sri Lanka high commissioner in India, Mr Tilakaratna, and the director general of Foreign Office, Mr (Fonseka). The prime minister's special envoy, Mr G. Parthasarathy; the foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra; the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr Chatwal and the chief secretary of Tamil Nadu, Mr Chockalingam were also present at the talks. Both sides will meet again tomorrow.

Mr Athulathmudali arrived in New Delhi this morning to hold preparatory talks on the 3-day visit of President Jayewardene from Saturday. The president, Giani Zail Singh, will give a banquet in honor of the Sri Lanka president and Madame Jayewardene. Mr Jayewardene will hold talks with the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, on Sunday. He will leave for Colombo on Monday.

Briefs

USSR-Aided Coal Mine Projects — Three new major coal mine projects are to be set up in the country with Soviet assistance. They are estimated to cost about 1,500 crore rupees. The coal secretary, S.B. Lal, told a news conference in New Delhi on 26th June that of these, two will be in Jharia and one in Singrauli. They will have an annual capacity of 22.5 million tonnes. Lal led a high-level delegation to the Soviet Union as a followup of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission's working group on coal which envisages drawing up a program for 1985-90. [Text] [Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0852 GMT 27 Jun 84 BK]

Agricultural Cooperation With France — India and France have signed a protocol to promote cooperation in agricultural and the allied fields. It was signed in Paris on June 25 by Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh and French Agriculture Minister Michel Rocard. [Text] [Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0854 GMT 27 June 84 BK]

PAKISTAN

President Appeals for Better Relations With India

BK281726 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has appealed to India to work for better relations between the two countries. In an interview with the magazine *INDIA TODAY*, he added that Pakistan is on a peace offensive and wants to normalize relations with India.

Referring to allegations by Indian leaders of Pakistan's involvement in the Sikh crisis in India's Punjab, the president said they were baseless and false.

Denies Involvement With Sikhs

BK281416 Hong Kong AFP in English 1345 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Excerpts] New Delhi, June 28 (AFP) — Security forces in Punjab arrested two top Sikh leaders early today under the National Security Act which provided for detention without trial, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency reported.

In a related development, Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq today rejected as "wrong, baseless and false" Indian allegations of his country's involvement in the Sikh crisis.

In a telephone interview with the fortnightly magazine *INDIA TODAY* General Zia also brushed aside the Indian charge that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was channeling arms to Sikh extremists through the Afghan refugees and through Pakistani agents.

Gen Zia recalled the recent statement of U.S. Vice President George Bush to him that Washington wanted to see a strong, stable and united India and said, "I see no reason why, on the one hand, Vice President Bush tells me this and, on the other hand, the CIA should be involved in arming the Sikhs. It doesn't go well."

"The government of Pakistan has decided on a policy of having good neighbourly relations with India irrespective of India's internal problems," he said.

President Returns From Saudi Arabia Visit 28 June

BK281545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq returned to Islamabad this evening after performing a pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Rahimuddin Khan, and other high officials welcomed him at the airport.

Energy Production, Consumption Statistics Cited

GF271250 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Jun 84 p 7

[Text] Pakistan imported 4,73,9000 tonnes of oil at a cost of Rs. 14,643 million, during the first nine months of the current financial year, according to the Pakistan economic survey released yesterday.

The domestic production which was 3.5 million barrels, meets only 10 percent of the requirements.

The total primary energy consumption in Pakistan is currently estimated at around 23 million tons of oil equivalent per year. Of this, two thirds is met by commercial energy resources and one third of the consumption from noncommercial energy resources like firewood, charcoal, and cow dung. The per capita commercial energy comes to 1.4 barrels of oil equivalent per annum. The level of consumption of the commercial energy is one half of the average for less developed countries and one ninth of the world average.

However, the level has increased substantially over the last 35 years when it was merely one seventh of a barrel of oil equivalent per annum.

The per capita primary commercial energy consumption has increased dramatically over the period since 1947, reflecting rapid rate of industrialisation and a shift from the non commercial to commercial sources of energy.

The survey points out that the consumption of natural gas is growing at a rate of about 7.3 per cent per annum. The main consumers accounting for 87 percent of consumption are the general industries, fertiliser industry, cement industry and power generation. The balance of 13 percent is consumed by domestic and commercial sectors.

The recoverable reserves of natural gas are estimated at 15.706 million cubic feet. Out of the total recoverable reserves, 4.437 billion cubic feet have been consumed by March this year.

The production of coal during the first nine months of the current financial year was 1,274,000 tonnes to register an increase of 6.8 percent over the same period last year. Coal being of inferior quality is used to the extent of 90 percent by the brick kilns industry. Coal mining is mainly in the private sector and accounts for 85 percent of total production.

SRI LANKA

Bomb Explosion in Colombo Hotel Kills One

BK281313 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] According to agency reports, in Sri Lanka one person was killed and a few others injured in an explosion in Colombo this afternoon. The explosion took place in a posh hotel, where an employee lifted a bag outside a room. The bomb went off, killing her. Eyewitnesses said a number of rooms were damaged.

President Orders 'Strict Security'

BK290736 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 29 Jun 84

[AFP carries the following slug: "This dispatch was subject to censorship"]

[Text] Colombo, June 29 (AFP) — The government today ordered strict security imposed in hotels and government buildings here as President Junius Jayewardene ordered an investigation into a hotel bomb-blast in which a woman died. Police said they do not know who was behind the explosion at the five-star Lanka Obersoi here yesterday and no one has claimed responsibility.

One theory is that the blast was the work of militant Tamils fighting for a separate state for their minority ethnic community.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official, here to assist the government with anti-insurgency techniques, is believed to be staying at the hotel. Colombo's informal relations with Israel have angered Sri Lanka's Moslem minority.

An island-wide alert was on for a couple calling themselves Mr. and Mrs. John Sebastian who checked into the eighth-floor hotel room on Wednesday evening and left yesterday before the blast.

Meanwhile the government ordered strict security imposed at hotels and in government buildings. People entering buildings were searched. Hotels were told to inspect foreigners' passports and Sri Lankans' identity cards.

A hotel employee told detectives that there had been a bag in the eighth-floor room that was too heavy to carry, *THE DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper said.

The woman killed in the blast was 27 year old hotel employee Rochelle Walles.

Ministers Brief Cabinet on Current Situation

BK281215 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, and the minister of education, Ranil Wickremasinghe, briefed the Cabinet yesterday on the current situation in the country. Cabinet Spokesman and Minister of Education Ranil Wickremasinghe, addressing newsmen later, said that the entire school system was functioning normally. Attendance in most schools throughout the country in the past 2 days had been satisfactory.

The minister of education said he wished to thank all those who made it possible for the educational system to continue normally. However, the security measures and vigilance will continue for the next week or so.

There were reports from Anuradhapura that certain elements had been distributing leaflets to incite the student population. These leaflets called for the removal of police from universities and the destruction of the government which was responsible for the killing of the students.

The leaflets also declared there is terrorism in the north, let us support terrorism in the south. The Anuradhapura police are conducting investigations to ascertain who was responsible for the distribution of these leaflets.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,772

LD281719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Communique No 1,772 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran commemorating international Jerusalem Day]

[Text] In the past 24 hours the combative forces of Islam defended their positions and zones and opened fire on various enemy vehicles. In the Hajj 'Umran region, more than 30 Iraqi forces were killed and three weapons trenches were destroyed. In the Piranshah and Sar Dasht regions, three enemy ammunition dumps were set on fire and one mortar of the Saddamist forces was destroyed.

Exchanges of heavy weapons fire continued in the western operational zone, being most intense in the Sumar region; two trucks, one ammunition dump, one excavator, one gun, and four trenches and foxholes were destroyed.

In the southern operational zone our forces opened fire on the enemy's engineering equipment and infantrymen; the enemy forces were busy constructing and consolidating positions. Losses and casualities were inflicted on them and enemy penetration into our defense lines was halted.

Yesterday, the city of Abadan came under intense enemy fire; seven houses and five shops were damaged, and fire broke out in one area of the city. Several mortar shells also hit 10 places in Khorramshahr.

KUNA: UN Visit to Khorramshahr, Abadan Agreed

LD281855 Kuwait KUNA in English 1759 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] United Nations, June 28 (KUNA) — Iran has agreed to allow the U.N. to visit Khorramshahr and Abadan, the two southern Iranian towns it said were shelled by Iraqi forces forces Wednesday in violation of the limited cease-fire agreement between the two countries, a U.N. spokesman said Thursday.

Earlier this week, Iraq made it clear the two towns were not part of the U.N.-engineered accord to halt raids on civilian populations, because of the presence of large Iranian military contingents there. Iran denies this.

The spokesman said Iran also agreed that a three-man team to monitor the cease-fire as part of the agreement be stationed in Tehran. The U.N. team for Iraq under Brig. Gen. Timothy Dibuamaalready is in Baghdad.

The spokesman told KUNA that Dibuama, who currently is in Tehran to discuss the stationing of the U.N. team for Iran, has been invited by the Iranians to visit Abadan to ascertain that the town, indeed, has been attacked by Iraqi planes.

Iran claims the air raids on the two cities damaged ten residential units and a school in Abadan, and set ablaze three sections of Khorramshahr.

Velayati Addresses UN Team

LD281836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The UN monitoring team this morning met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati. Explaining the Islamic Republic of Iran's stands vis-a-vis the imposed war, as well as Iran's adherence to the laws and principles governing wars, the foreign minister said: Iraq's attack against Iran was the first inhuman act committed by the regime; this was an act against which international bodies and most of the countries of the world failed to protest; nor did they take any step to prevent it. Consequently, relying on our own nation, we defended ourselves and forced the enemy to retreat. Supported by our nation, we will completely repulse the aggression committed by the Iraqi regime.

Mr Velayati added: In the early days of the war the Iraqi regime resorted to attacking civilian areas and killing innocent people. This act too was received with no protests by the various organizations and countries during a 3-year period, during which we refrained from retaliating. It was only after the lapse of a certain period, following the report issued by the UN mission in connection with its investigation of Iraqi attacks on the Islamic Republic civilian zones, and the decision to retaliate in kind — which was preceded by appropriate warning — against Iraqi towns, that certain steps were taken to stop attacks on civilian areas. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of its adherence to humanitarian matters, accepted the proposal made by the UN secretary general.

In another part of his remarks, Velayati referred to Iraq's use of chemical weapons as being contrary to all international standards and laws. Hhe added: The UN secretary general sent a mission to Iran to study the matter. It subsequently became clear that the Iraqi regime had made extensive use of such weapons. However, in its concluding statement the Security Council made no reference to Iraq by name. As a result, the statement enabled that regime to continue with this inhuman act.

Concluding his remarks, Mr Velayati said: We hope that the United Nations, instead of being influenced by big powers, will state its views about the inhuman acts committed by the Iraqi regime — which are in contravention of international law — including Iraq's use of chemical weapons.

Team Visits Abadan

GF290722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the UN secretary general's military adviser and the accompanying expert, who are currently on a visit to Iran in order to prepare a report on whether there is a decline in the Iraqi regime's attacks on residential and civilian areas of our country, inspected the signs of the crimes of the Zionist Saddamists in Abadan.

During this inspection, the UN military experts visited the residential areas and organizations of Abadan; the relevant authorities provided them with the necessary clarifications. During the visit, General Dibuama, the UN secretary general's

adviser, and Colonel (Baver) also viewed the mode of life in Abadan's various sections such as the bazaar, government offices, shops, and welfare and health institutions. The UN experts met the people in the Ahmadabad bazaar of this city and acquainted themselves firsthand with the manner of the people's work.

In the course of this visit, the Imam Khomeyni Hospital of Abadan which had been the victim of the Saddamists fire attacks yesterday morning was also inspected by the delegation. Col (Baver) was shown shrapnel from a mortar shell which had exploded on a section of the hospital building by Gen Dibuama who said: It is evident that this shell has been fired today.

After the visit, the delegation returned to Tehran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Terrorism Against Iran

GF290803 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Excerpts] On the occasion of 7 Tir [28 June], the anniversary of the tragedy of the explosion at the central office of the IRP and the martyrdom of a number of the imam of the nation's aides, ceremonies were held in the presence of our ubiquitous people near the Islamic Majlis yesterday afternoon.

After recitation of eulogies, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, offered condolences and greetings on the martyrdom of the great martyrs of 7 Tir to the imam and the martyr-nurturing nation and said: Today, as we enter fourth year, we commemorate the martyrdom of some of the best revolutionary associates of Islam and the imam.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis added: The days of the aftermath of the revolution when you people congregated near this Majlis with the same greatness and shouted slogans against the hypocrites marked the beginning. The small factions were angered by this action and your support. Their aim was to destroy this greatness and as a result, they tainted themselves with the worst act. If France and the United States support these small factions, it is a sign of their weakness. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: World arrogance held a seminar on terrorism recently and labeled Libya, Syria, and Iran as terrorists. This is their propaganda, just like Israelis who, whenever they wish to humiliate someone, say that we sold arms to him.

With regard to the recent hijackings by the agents of world oppression, he said: In order to harm the Islamic Republic and to eclipse the importance of Jerusalem Day and to tell the world that the opponents of the Islamic Republic are stronger, they commit heinous acts. In Egypt, they asked the pilot to request political asylum and then they obtained tickets for the hijackers and sent them to Baghdad. The world of oppression is such that a world which considers hijacking the worst form of stealing and condemns it, but later treats the hijackers as guests. Even France protects hijackers at a military base.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis added: Is this campaign which they carry out against the Islamic Republic, which includes attacks on oil tankers from afar, launching missiles on cities, and the hijacking of airplanes, anything but terrorism?

Warns U.S., France

LD291259 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Tehran, June 29, IRNA — Attacks against Iran's shipping route in the Persian Gulf, attacks against its civilian areas and supporting hijacking shows the feebleness of world arrogant governments in their campaign against the Islamic Republic, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in a speech last night.

He warned that the Islamic Republic would exact its dues from those countries that support terrorism against Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: "This campaign of world arrogance against the Islamic Republic shows nothing but their feebleness. America, France, countries in the region and some other countries officially support terrorism. This is the work of a defeated group."

The Majlis speaker said that "in the future the Islamic Republic would give those countries who encourage terrorism their dues."

President Speaks in Esfahan on 28 June Anniversary

LD281249 Tehran IRNA in English 0846 28 Jun 84

[Text] Esfahan, June 28, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i currently touring Esfahan said here Wednesday that the June 28 tragic event had created a public move among Iranian people.

President Khamene'i was referring to the June 28, 1981, bomb blast at the Islamic Republic Party headquarters which martyred Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti and 72 of Imam Khomeyni's aides.

President Khamene'i said that the world oppressors could not stand Islam, adding that the main reason for their hostility against Islamic Republic was the victorious move of Iran in the world.

The president referred to the aid of the superpowers to the Iraqi regime and said that France, the U.S. and their agents in the region had put all their means at the disposal of the Iraqi regime, and all these proved the power of the Islamic Republic.

Concerning the effects of struggles of Iranians on other Muslim nations, President Khamene'i said that the existance of the Islamic Republic would be a defeat for the superpowers. Noting that the victory for Iran did not merely mean to destroy all her enemies, the president said that since the Iraqi regime was a warmonger, it would be overthrown by Islamic combatants.

He added that Iran's policy and her message was to prove to the world and to oppressed Muslims that Islam could save a country and could resist all pressures and invasions.

Calls Iraq Aggressor

LD281924 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Esfahan, June 28, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Thursday that the Islamic Republic had only one solution to the Iraqi-imposed war, to get rid of the aggressor.

Speaking at a joint morning ceremony of the Army and disciplinary forces, President Khamene'i, who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council, said that the world today had recognised that the Iraqi regime was a warmonger and, therefore, should be annihilated. He stressed that such a task should be accomplished by the Iranian Armed Forces, noting that since the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war the Islamic Republic has maintained a defensive stance.

President Khamene'i emphasises that Iran had never favoured tension and if it had not been attacked in the sea, it would not have responded. "We do not want nations to waste their power and efforts in war but when enemies of God and expansionists encourage a regime to ruin our revolution, we have no alternative other than defending prestige of our beloved revolution," the head of the Supreme Defence Council said.

Referring to the tragic event of June 28, 1981 during which the late Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti and 72 other aides of Imam Khomeyni were martyred, President Khamene'i said that each of the martyrs of the incident were an example of resistance.

Speaking on the resistance of Iranian Muslims during the Islamic Revolution, the president noted that Iran was playing the most important role in political composition of the world, especially that of the region, which was greatly played by the Armed Forces.

He called on the Armed Forces to preserve their vigilance since they should continue to fight the enemy.

President Khamene'i later paid tribute to martyrs at the city cemetery while being accompanied by a number of religious, political, military and disciplinary officials.

The president arrived in this central city Wednesday to attend a ceremony marking the third anniversary of the June 28, 1981 bomb blast at the Islamic Republic party headquarters in Tehran.

Receives Esfahan IRGC Leaders

LD281944 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Esfahan, June 28, Irna — The members of the Command Council of Esfahan Province's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) here called on President 'Ali Khamene'i today. In this meeting the IRGC regional commander presented a report on the activities of his personnel to the president who provided the necessary guidelines on the issue.

President 'Ali Khamene'i, during his visit to Esfahan, also received today a group of combatants disabled in the Iraqi imposed war.

Addresses Najafabad Meeting

GF290745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, on the third anniversary of the 7 Tir [28 June] tragedy, the president of our country, who is on a visit to Esfahan, attended a meeting yesterday afternoon along with the clergymen of the Najafabad seminary; members of the IRP Najafabad office; members and officials of various bodies and organizations; martyrs' families; the father of His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri, the imam's deputy and the Esfahan Friday imam; the Najafabad Friday imam; the governor general of Esfahan; officials of the corps of district No 2; the commanders of the military and law enforcement forces of the province; and the Najafabad people's Majlis deputy.

At the beginning of the meeting, one of the brothers welcomed the president and chief of the Supreme Defense Council on behalf of the audience and spoke about the various problems of the area. Then, Mr Khamene'i expressed his appreciation for being in the midst of the resistant martyr-nurturing people of Najafabad and addressed the audience, saying that you who are the custodians of your city do not require any further introduction or commendation.

Mr Khamene'i then spoke on the message of the Islamic Republic and the objectives of this divine system in the world, saying: Today, the victory of the Islamic Republic is the victory of Islam. And we should be alert to the fact that our problem is not the problem of a revolutionary regime. Our problem is the revival of a great international and new phenomenon, that which the East and West are terrified of. It is the message of our revolution, that there can be a society in which the people are the true directors of the scenario and are the true administrators.

According to our correspondent's report, Ayatollah Khademi, the director of the Esfahan seminary, met the president, Mr Khamene'i, at his residence last night.

Tehran Comments on Increased Oil Prices, Insurance

LD290333 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] And here is the first article of this program which is entitled "A Plot of the International Oil Market."

Dear listeners, in view of the devilish acts by the pro-Zionist Saddam in the Persian Gulf's territorial waters during the past weeks, and hence the increase in the insurance rates for the oil tankers and, eventually, the comments which are heard here and there in relation to the oil prices, our oil analyst has prepared a commentary to which we draw your kind attention:

Some times after the 68th and 69th sessions of the Organization of the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries, OPEC, in Geneva, and with the complete stabilization of the oil price on the basis of $29 per barrel and the amount of 17.5 million barrels a day as the ceiling for OPEC production as well as the agreement reached by the entire members of OPEC on this policy, the

international oil market enjoyed a relative equilibrium and stability. In other words, the chaotic situation of the international market, which menaced oil prices, was somehow put in order.

The equilibrium in the market and in its aftermath the stabilization of the oil prices at a level desirable to the member states of OPEC is not something favored by the superpowers, and hence they decided to disturb it. At any rate, since a month ago, when the Iraqi pro-Zionist-Ba'thist regime started attacking oil tankers, by making the oil tanker *Safina al-'Arab*, belonging to Saudi Arabia its first target, in view of the satanic objectives which it pursued, that regime attempted to make the Persian Gulf territorial waters insecure. Following these mischievous acts by the Iraqi pro-Zionist Ba'thist regime, the insurance companies too, which have always acted in favor of the superpowers' interests, increased the insurance rates for the oil tankers bound for the Persian Gulf as much as 7.5 percent.

With the increase in the insurance rates and Saddam's attacks, shipping decreased to a great extent and, consequently there came about a decrease in the sale of oil coming from the Persian Gulf littoral states too. Amidst this, the European countries, Japan, and America shifted their oil purchase from the Persian Gulf countries to the oil-exporting countries outside this region, thus the demand for the purchase of the North Sea oil of Norway and of North African countries increased. It was due to the same reason that such countries as Nigeria, Venezuela, and several other countries, without taking into consideration the situation of the international oil market, announced that they were seeking to increase the price of their crude oil.

Since the aforementioned countries were members of the OPEC, and since any decision concerning the oil price had to be taken within the framework of the OPEC, this expression of view led to the weakening of OPEC and a decrease in the significance of the Persian Gulf at the international markets — something which was mostly desired by the superpowers.

After the relative termination of the mischievous acts by the pro-Zionist Saddam in the Persian Gulf against the logical and fundamental measures by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the return of security to this region for the shipping, the insurance companies were forced to decrease their insurance rate. Thus the situation of the sale of oil by the Persian Gulf littoral states relatively returned to normalcy.

On the whole, making the situation in the Persian Gulf chaotic, in addition to the sinister objectives which Saddam pursued in order to spread the war from the warfronts to the Persian Gulf territorial waters, caused rumors concerning the decrease in the oil price to become significant once again, owing to the creation of disturbances in the supply and demand market. Dispatches received here report that in the words of oil dealers the crude oil was sold at its lowest price at spot markets in Europe on Friday. Alongside these comments, the expression of views by some of the OPEC member states, and an increase in the stockpiling by countries, especially Saudi Arabia, are indicative of another sinister plot aimed to decrease oil prices.

Besides all these issues, summer is coming and, consequently, the world oil consumption would naturally decrease. At this juncture of time, and in view of the fact that the 70th session of OPEC is slated to be held on 10 July in Vienna, the member states of OPEC are required to be vigilant, so as to keep the oil price stable at $29 a barrel and the production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels a day by adopting logical measures. This is due to the fact that the passage of time has shown it is the oil price as well as the amount of production which are the factors behind unity in OPEC.

Assuming that the oil market did not have the capacity for 17.5 million barrels a day, the oil price has to be kept stable and the production amount must be decreased. Amidst this, the reactionary faction of OPEC may not give in to a decrease to in the production quota. However, it is up to some of the progressive members of OPEC that they should try to keep the oil price at present level with their strong resistance.

Iraqi Mujahidin Warn Foreign Experts To Leave

LD281615 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Ahvaz, June 2, IRNA — The mujahidin of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq gave an 18-day ultimatum to all foreign experts working in Iraq to leave the country or else face the consequences.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Muslim mujahidin said that some Western and Eastern governments have been supporting the Iraqi regime regardless of the criminal acts it has committed.

Therefore, he said, the Iraqi Muslim combatants warn such governments to call home their experts as soon as possible.

He said that foreign experts have until July 17th to leave the country. The set date is the anniversary of the Ba'th coup in Iraq.

He also said that the organisation will use all its means for jihad against foreigners.

Iraq Attacks Swiss-Owned Tanker in Gulf 27 June

LD282023 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] As a result of an attack on the 260,000 metric ton oil tanker *Tiburon*, registered in Liberia, which was carried out yesterday in the Persian Gulf waters by aircraft donated by world arrogance to the Iraqi Zionist regime, 8 people were killed and 3 others wounded. It is reported that the dead were Spanish and German citizens.

The Swiss company which owns the ship stated that the ship's engine room was damaged.

Fire-fighting ships of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which were dispatched to the scene yesterday, are at present exinguishing the fire.

According to a Central News Unit report, the oil tanks of the ship, which had loaded at Khark Island, are as yet not damaged.

Soviet Energy Delegation Member Comments on Talks

LD282228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Just before leaving Iran, the director for manufacturing foreign power plants at the Soviet Ministry of Power and Electrification, (Padovskiy), who accompanied a Soviet delegation to our country, spoke to our correspondent today about the outcome of his visit. He said: Our objective for this visit was to expand (?cooperation) in erecting workshops and power plants. To this end, necessary studies were carried out. As a result it was decided to expand our cooperation. He added: Iran had arranged our itineraries to enable us to familiarize ourselves with all the existing problems most appropriately. Consequently, we managed to pursue a common objective.

On continuing the operation of Shahid Montazeri power plant in Isfahan and Ramin power plant in Ahvaz, he said: We held constructive talks on these matters and succeeded in accomplishing certain tasks concerning the joint cooperation of these plants. One can say with certainty that we managed to take positive steps. He referred to talks on strengthening technical relations between Iran and the USSR as excellent and, alluding to Ahvaz's Ramin power plant, said: Members of our delegation visited the power plant and its workshops and became familiar with its problems. In particular, talks were held on transformers as well as joint action about the continuation of Ramin power plant's operation between our delegation and the officials of the Iranian Energy Ministry. These talks were very constructive. As for the final decision, it is up to senior Iranian and Soviet officials.

Tehran: $82 Million U.S. Military Package to Kuwait

GF280725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The United States has decided to provide Kuwait with air defense equipment worth $82 million.

Chile Supplying Cluster, Chemical Bombs to Iraq

LD280832 Tehran IRNA in English 0734 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA — Chile's Gen. Augustino Pinochet's regime has put cluster and chemical bombs at the disposal of the Iraqi regime, reports said.

A communique issued by Socialist Party of Chile in the 24th congress in June 1984 said that Pinochet has exported to Iraq cluster bombs weighing 250 and 500 pounds. The bombs are of the same kind used by the Zionists in 1982 in their military invasion of Beirut.

The shipment also includes chemical bombs in 500,000-piece consignment with a value of 30 million dollars.

Iraqi cargo planes and Chilean military aircraft are carrying the weapons to Iraq through El-Bochue military base and Pudahuel international airport.

Radio Iran Carries Bakhtiar Message

GF281802 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text of message by Dr Shahpu Bakhtiar, leader of the National Resistance Movement of Iran — date, place not given; recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear sisters and brothers: From discussions with countrymen who have left the country, and from the letters I have received, its seems you are now ready, after 2 months of silence, to hear from me the progress and the present activities of our party. I thank you for your eagerness to listen to me and for the confidence shown in me and my views.

Continued efforts and great travails have at last succeeded in informing world opinion, and world consciences have become aware of the Iranian situation. In their thinking and actions the world's people have changed their view of Khomeyni's regime. As I have repeatedly said, the evil nature of Khomeyni and his disregard for the most elementary moral, legal, and human values have been reflected in the policies of his regime so much so that today Khomeyni and his regime have been branded as the most condemned government. However, all agree that Khomeyni and his Iran-destroying regime must be toppled. Iran can only survive when this regime has been destroyed.

Khomeyni presents himself as the enemy of Zionism and wants to liberate Jerusalem, but has so far, according to creditable reports, received many millions of dollars worth of arms from the Israeli Government. During the past 4 years to continue the war of his Islamic government, without counting the casualties, dead, and damage done to the country, he has spent more than the shah spent in the previous 25 years. What kind of government requires killing countless officers and soldiers of the Army so that that Khomeyni may survive a few days or months more to continue murders, plunder, and suffocation of the Iranian people. The Khomeyni administration during the past 5 years has earned $18 billion annually from oil sales. However, Iranian living standards have dropped, and development in the country has fallen greatly compared to the period prior to his takeover.

You may be aware that under the present conditions, apart from the political isolation Iran is suffering, international hatred is now directed toward Iran. Khomeyni's oil revenues have fallen by 40 percent. The $3 billion deficit in the Iranian budget shows that the economy of the country has deteriorated further. The Iranian monetary reserves have also fallen. Throughout the country you are searching for ways to achieve your objectives. Despite all the difficulties, you are aware of the situation. Your resistance and spirit to fight should never falter. By non-cooperation and negative actions you can help the regime's fall. When the time comes, you should all be ready to accept any danger and make any sacrifice needed. Our basis has been and should remain nationalism.

Dear sisters and brothers, as before, I repeat my demand. I don't want you to feel despondent. You must stand steadfast. The Iranian people will once again make Iran their own country. Iran will never die!